Rs.1 crore with a guarantee cover of 50%; (ii) increasing the guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme from 80 per cent to 85 per cent of credit facility up to Rs.5 lakh; (iii) interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit to small and medium enterprises (SME) sector; (iv) refinance limit of Rs.7,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for incremental on-lending to the micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector; (v) grant of need-based *ad hoc* working capital demand loans up to 20 per cent of the existing fund-based limits; and (vi) reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises by 1 per cent and in respect of SMEs by 0.5 per cent. These have resulted in increasing the outstanding credit to micro and small enterprises sector from public sector banks from Rs. 1,51,137 crore as at the end of March, 2008 to Rs.1,91,307 crore as at the end of March 2009.

New rail line from Sevak to Sikkim

†2567. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has started survey and work for the construction of new rail lines from Sevak to Sikkim;

(b) whether Government is planning to upgrade Sevak railway station; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to open railway counter at Sevak station keeping in view the convenience of passengers of Duwars, Kalimpong, Sikkim regions etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The construction of new line from Sivok to Rangpo (Sikkim) has been taken up. The length of the line is 52.7 Km and cost as per the initial survey is Rs. 1339.48 crore. The Final Location Survey is in progress. The work has been entrusted to M/s IRCON, a PSU under Ministry of Railways, for execution.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Two railway counters have been provided at the station which is considered adequate.

Better facilities to foreign passengers

2568. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Passenger Amenities Committee has recommended to allow travellers a better view of outside special coaches exclusive for foreigners and better communication system to reach train drivers in case of emergency so that ancient alarm chain system can be done away with;

(b) if so, whether they have also recommended that railways should consider bigger size window with clear glasses; and

(c) if so, the details of any other suggestions made and by when Government is likely to implement these suggestions and provide special rail coaches for foreigners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No formal recommendation has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.